

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3043

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR US JO IS SA
SUBJECT: CODEL STONE:DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER
BADRAN

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SENATOR STONE AND JORDANIAN
PRIME MINISTER BADRAN MAY 29 CENTERED ON SENATOR'S PROPOSAL
TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS (1) WHEREBY ARAB MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN
RELIGIOUS LEADERS MIGHT BE GRANTED ISRAELI PERMISSION TO
ENTER WEST BANK FOR PURPOSE OF WORSHIP AND (2)
WHEREBY ISRAELI ARABS MIGHT BE ALLOWED BY JORDAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR PURPOSE OF WORSHIP.
PM BADRAN INDICATED GOJ WOULD SUPPORT ANY SUCH INITIATIVE AND WORK
WITH USG TO WORK OUT MODALITIES. SENATOR SUGGESTED THIS INITIATIVE
MIGHT BE ONE WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ONE AREA WHICH COULD LEAD
THE WAY TOWARDS AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
SENATOR INDICATED HE PLANS TO PURSUE THIS INITIATIVE
WITH ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT ON HIS
CURRENT VISIT TO THOSE COUNTRIES. AT SENATOR'S REQUEST
PRIME MINISTER BADRAN ALSO OUTLINED ADMINISTRATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS AND GENERAL TIES GOJ HAS WITH WEST BANK.
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END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR PORTION OF HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION BETWEEN SENATOR
STONE AND JORDAN PRIME MINISTER BADRAN MAY 29 CENTERED ON
SENATOR'S INITIATIVE PROPOSED AT MEETING TO OBTAIN PER-
MISSION FOR BOTH ARAB MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS TO VISIT
JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES AND FOR

ISRAELI MUSLIM ARABS TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR PURPOSE OF VISITING MUSLIM RELIGIOUS SHRINES. SENATOR ASKED PRIME MINISTER BADRAN IF ANY ARAB PILGRIMS HAD BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH JORDAN TO THE WEST BANK SINCE 1967 TO WORSHIP AT THE MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SHRINES IN JERUSALEM AND ELSEWHERE ON THE WEST BANK. IN REPLY, PRIME MINISTER BADRAN SAID ARABS WITHOUT FAMILIES ON THE WEST BANK ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO WEST BANK UNDER CURRENT ISRAELI REGULATIONS. PRIME MINISTER INDICATED THAT GENERAL ISRAELI PRACTICES DO NOT ALLOW EVEN RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO ENTER WEST BANK UNLESS THEY HAVE RESIDENT FAMILY CONNECTIONS ON WEST BANK. WHEN SENATOR ASKED IF ARAB RELIGIOUS LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO WORSHIP AT WEST BANK RELIGIOUS SHRINES, PRIME MINISTER EMPHATICALLY AFFIRMED THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO SO IF THEY COULD GET ISRAELI PERMISSION. PRIOR TO 1967 WAR, THOUSANDS OF ARAB MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS PERFORMED PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM. MUSLIM PRACTICE IS FOR PILGRIM TO PERFORM SPECIAL PRAYERS IN AL AQSA MOSQUE IN JERUSALEM EITHER DIRECTLY BEFORE OR AFTER PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. THOUSANDS ATTENDED PREVIOUS FRIDAY MUSLIM SERVICE, PARTICULARLY DURING RAMADAN, AND JORDAN RADIO AND OTHER ARAB STATES BROADCAST FRIDAY PRAYERS DIRECTLY THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS OBTAINED FOR ARAB CHRISTIANS PERFORMING EAST AND CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGES. PRIME MINISTER BADRAN SAID JORDAN WOULD BE HAPPY IF PERMISSION COULD BE GRANTED BY ISRAELIS FOR ANYONE TO TRAVEL TO WEST BANK FOR ANY PURPOSE. ON ITS PART JORDAN DOES NOT WITHHOLD PERMISSION, IT IS ISRAELIS WHO DO SO.

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3. IN REPLY TO QUESTION WHETHER JORDAN COULD GRANT PERMISSION FOR ARAB MUSLIMS BEARING ISRAELI PASSPORTS TO TRAVEL THROUGH JORDAN TO SAUDI ARABIA, PRIME MINISTER BADRAN MADE FOLLOWING REPLY. HE SAID JORDAN HAS NOT OBJECTION AND IN FACT HAS PREVIOUSLY ASKED SAUDI ARABIA TO GRANT VISAS FOR SUCH PERSONS BUT SAUDI ARABIA REFUSED. GOJ IS WILLING TO GIVE ISRAELI ARABS SOMETHING LIKE A GROUP JORDANIANS PASSPORT AS IDENTITY DOCUMENT FOR SUCH VISITS TO ENABLE THEM TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA BUT IMPLIED THAT DIRECT USE OF ISRAELI PASSPORTS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. SENATOR STONE SAID HE WOULD BE RAISING PILGRIMAGE ISSUE DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO BOTH ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ISRAELI PERMISSION TO ALLOW ARAB MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS TO ENTER WEST BANK FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES AND HE WOULD RAISE WITH SAUDI ARABIA POS-

SIBILITY OF SAG PERMITTING ISRAELI MUSLIM ARABS TO
TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.
HE BELIEVES
THAT THIS HUMANITARIAN
GESTURE IS A GOOD WAY TO EMPHASIZE
WHAT DRAWS ARABS AND ISRAELIS TOGETHER, RATHER THAN
DWELLING ON WHAT SEPARATES THEM. PRIME MINISTER BADRAN
SAID GOJ WILL BE WILLING TO HELP IN INITIATIVE VIS-A-VIS
SAUDI ARABIA. SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR
PRIME MINISTERS SUPPORT.

5. ON SUBJECT OF TOURISM EXCHANGE, PRIME MINISTER
RELATED FOLLOWING ANECDOTE ABOUT INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED
WHEN GOJ TWO YEARS AGO BEGAN TO PERMIT FOREIGN TOURISTS
DO ROUND-TRIP JOURNEY, STARTING IN ISRAEL TO JORDAN
AND RETURNING TO ISRAEL. TOURISTS WERE PERMITTED TO
ENTER ON GROUP TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND SEVERAL ISRAELIS
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WITHOUT DECLARING THEIR NATIONALITY, TOOK OCCASION

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W
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R 291902Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1809
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3043

TO VISIT JORDAN TOURISTIC SITES SUCH AS PETRA DURING
INITIAL VISIT. THEY THEN MADE A POINT, UPON THEIR

RETURN TO ISRAEL, OF BEING INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI TELEVISION AND ADVERTISING THEIR EXPLOIT. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DESPITE THIS "TRICK" JORDAN REFUSED TO BE EMBARRASSED. HE LEFT NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT JORDAN COULD NOT NOW (IN THE ABSENCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE) PERMIT ISRAELIS TO COME TO JORDAN FOR TOURISM PURPOSES. REGARDING RELIGIOUS EXCHANGES PRIME MINISTER BADRAN ALSO MENTIONED RECENT ISSUE REGARDING JORDANIANS REQUEST OF GOI TO ALLOW BURIAL IN WEST BANK OF RECENTLY DECEASED JORDANIAN CHIEF QADI SHAIKH ABDULLAH GHOSHEH. HE WAS BORN ON WEST BANK AND JORDAN TRIED IN VAIN TO OBTAIN GOI PERMISSION TO BURY HIM THERE. REQUEST HAD GONE FOUR DAYS WITHOUT ISRAELI RESPONSE AND JORDAN HAD BEEN FORCED TO BURY HIM ON EAST BANK, WITH PERMISSION GIVEN TO BURY HIM IN ROYAL BURIAL ENCLOSURE. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUESTION, PRIME BADRAN DID NOT BELIEVE SHAIKH GHOSHEH'S REMAINS COULD BE TRANSFERRED NOW TO WEST BANK ONCE BURIAL HAD BEEN AFFECTED IN JORDAN.

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6. AT SENATOR'S REQUEST, PRIME MINISTER BADRAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILED SUMMARY OF CURRENT GOJ ADMINISTRATIVE TIES WITH THE WEST BANK SINCE 1967 OCCUPATION: GOJ CONSIDERS THAT JORDANIAN LAW STILL APPLIES TO WEST BANK DESPITE ISRAELI OCCUPATION: GOJ EMPLOYEES HIRED BEFORE 1967 WAR ARE TREATED ON SAME BASIS AS EAST BANK EMPLOYEES--THEY RECEIVE FULL WAGES, PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENT: GOJ CONSIDERES ALL WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, CHARITIES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AS ADMINISTRATIVELY TIED TO GOJ, ALL WEST BANK BANK ACCOUNTS IN JORDANIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BEFORE 1967 WAR CAN STILL BE TRANSFERRED; WEST BANK SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ARE STILL SUPPORTED, GOJ GIVES HELP TO WEST BANK EXPORTS TO ENTER JORDAN DIRECTLY AND BEYOND: ISRAELI-REGISTERED TRUCKS CAN TRANSIT JORDAN PROVIDED THEY USE PRE-1967 JORDANIANS REGISTRATION NUMBERS ONCE THEY CROSS BRIDGE INTO JORDAN.

7. GOJ GIVES JORDANIAN VISAS TO WEST BANK STUDENTS TO PERMIT THEM TO TRAVEL AND ENDORSES SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATES OF WEST BANK SCHOOLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JERUSALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHICH DEPEND ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CURRICULUM (NOT GOJ) SINCE GOI CONSIDERES JERUSALEM ANNEXED TO ISRAEL. OTHER WEST BANK SCHOOLS INCLUDING JERUSALEM PRIVATE SCHOOLS UTILIZE JORDANIANS SYLLABUS,

8. GAZA HAS DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS GIVEN FACT GAZA WAS NOT LINKED TO JORDAN PRIOR TO 1967. GOJ PERMITS BOTH ENTRY INTO AND TRANSIT OF JORDAN FOR GAZA

EXPORTS AND GIVES JORDANIANS TEMPORARY PASSPORTS TO
GAZANS TO PERMIT THEIR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL.
JORDAN ALSO PROVIDES RELIEF TO WEST BANK AND GAZAN 1967 REFUGEES
DIRECTLY FROM JORDANIANS BUDGET.

9. IN CONCLUSION SENATOR STONE SAID THAT,
HE BELIEVES THE COMMON RELIGIOUS ASPECTS HAS BEEN CON-
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CEALED IN PAST AND THAT PROGRESS IN THIS AREA CAN
LEAD THE WAY TO IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS "BEFORE THE DIPLOMATS START TO DRAW THE
LINES ON THE MAPS".

10. THIS MESSAGE CLEARED WITH SENATOR STONE'S
PARTY.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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